



# THE RARa RAG

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## Hungry??

Besides sun filled days, loitering at the beach, and trimming antennas; what is an icon of summer? Cookouts! Mmmmm my favorite, and (hey, you're drooling) obviously it's yours too. Nothing can beat a gathering of family and friends with their snouts in the trough – yessir them's some good times.

Well, bring your family or bring a friend, to the annual RaRa Picnic. We're firing up the Barbie and grilling a feast just for YOU! No, we're not melting plastic dolls again... I already told you, the Fire Marshal, and Protective Services, that was all a misunderstanding. If you came to the picnic last year, you already know we knocked the menu clear out of the ball park when compared to previous year's simple offering of hot dogs. Once again we're planning on hamburgers, hot dogs, Italian sausage with peppers & onions, BBQ chicken breasts, potatoes, assorted salads and baked beans (they're good for your heart you know). Of course we'll have plenty to drink and munchies to munch while the chefs are cooking. We've reserved a larger cabin so there's plenty of room inside just in case it gets damp. Don't even think of the "R" word or you'll get such a pinch!

What? Did I hear you ask how much to get in? Well if you have to ask, you probably can't afford it. Actually... I have to whisper this so "you know who" doesn't hear me: IT'S FREE!

Yup! The picnic is free to all RaRa members and their family, or guest! Just wave your membership card and you're in! So, pack up your spouse and kids, and come to the RaRa picnic on Saturday July 16<sup>th</sup> at Ellison Park (Hazelwood Lodge). We light the grills at noon - don't be late or you'll go hungry ([click for map](#)).

Planning and preparing such a large menu can only be done when we know how many people we're going to feed, so take a minute right now and send me an e-mail with how many people will be attending in your party. You know all those voices in your head? Count them up! If you RSVP the picnic is FREE, if you show up without RSVP, I'll charge you double.

**Please RSVP by July 10<sup>th</sup> to [WB2PYD@ARRL.net](mailto:WB2PYD@ARRL.net).**



RaRa Picnic 2010

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Our Chef: N2QKL  
a.k.a: "Mr. Picnic"

## RARa Picnic

July 16th, 2011 Noon – 'til

Ellison Park -Hazelwood Lodge  
([click for map](#))



## The Prez Sez

By Frank Schramm, WB2PYD  
President, RaRa

I've been going to the Rochester Hamfest since 1977 and it seems like the weather is either blistering hot or includes some form of precipitation. What's a guy to do? I know... find a YL and share an umbrella! The forecast couldn't have been further from reality this year; they predicted a slight chance of rain late in the afternoon and we got a moderate rain in the morning. Somebody's working on the wrong sideband!

Now the good news: Even though the dampness prevailed, we broke a new attendance record, and I fielded only one complaint – oh yeah and one very unreasonable request! It seems like the Hamfest just keeps getting better. Now if we could only influence the weather!

I'd like to thank the dedicated Hamfest production team that spends nine months of planning culminating in three arduous days of work: Peter Fournia, our flea market manager; Len Crellin (who's got it all going on) coordinating vendor and exhibitor relations; Kevin Carey, our Raffle and programs manager; Jim Stefano, ticket sales and security administrator, Lisa Schramm (why does that name sound so familiar?) our RaRa Booth facilitator and your new Membership Secretary; and last but not far from least is Dick Young who does everything else and more. You guys (and gal) ROCK! Thanks for all your hard work. Rest up because our first Hamfest 2012 meeting is tomorrow... just kidding; it's Wednesday.

When the big day finally arrives, we couldn't pull it off if it weren't for our small army of multitasking volunteers: Tom Austin, Stan Avery, Glen Breummer, Duncan Brown, Jamie Carey, Kirsten Carey, Mark Erdle, Dean Faklis, Stephen Fell, Ken Harnaart, Roger Harnaart, Mark Hazel, Kim Hollingsworth, Brent Hungate, Paul Kolacki, Tim Magee, Bill Marinucci, Joe Merolillo, Lee Morelli, Dave Osofsky, Brad Rink, Mike Rink, Rodd Riesenberger, Lynn Rosenberg, Steve Ross, Gary Skuse, Kit Smith & his lovely XYL, Evhen Tupis, Ethan Tupis, and Spencer Tupis, John Van Griethuysen, Dan and Sue Waterstraat, and Rick Wells.

I hate to single anyone out because it truly was a group effort but I have to extend a special thanks to Brad and Stan for keeping all the pennies straight – that's a big job. And every dollar was accounted for... it doesn't seem possible! Then there are the Tupis and Waterstraat families... I think they have a friendly competition to see who will sell the most tickets. Between the two of them they sold over 750! I'm so relieved they don't work on commission. I hope that's a comprehensive list... if I accidentally omitted anyone, it's Len's fault. I don't know why, it just is.

Thank you! – Thank YOU! To everyone who helped facilitate the 2011 Hamfest - a huge success no matter how you measure it.

## Calendar of Events

**July 6** RaRa Board of Directors  
5:30 PM, RIT  
Bldg-17, Room 2110

**July 16** RaRa Picnic 12-noon  
Ellison Park - Hazelwood  
Lodge  
([click for map](#))



*Our raffle team picking yet another winner!*



*Our first-ever 'Last Chance' Auction gets underway.*



And the biggest THANK YOU to everyone who came, despite the weather, to make our largest crowd to date. We're working on some new ideas for Hamfest 2012, and if we can implement them, you'll just eat 'em up. Stay tuned!

Now, if you're still up for some more Hamfest fun, you'll want to check out our **Fall Fest and Tailgate Party** on Saturday September 10<sup>th</sup>! Check out Len's article below for details; because, well... He's got it all going on!

73,  
Frank  
WB2PYD



*Our full-service RaRa club table assists another member.*

## But Wait, There's More... Check out the "Thrill Before the Chill"!

By Len Crellin, KC2PCD

So you joined us at the Hamfest this year and got everything all set up and started to sell a lot of your excess gear, when it started to rain and cut your selling time short. Or maybe you couldn't make it this year, but you know you have been promising yourself to move some things to a new home!

Well, I think this may be right up your alley... RARA has joined with the Damascus Shriners to produce our very first **Fall Fest and Tailgate Party**. The Shriners will be providing a first class location with ample parking, indoor bathroom facilities, separate area for larger vehicles and RVs, a large covered picnic area to eat in and a large deck to rest after all that shopping.

They have built an excellent reputation for serving fresh food at reasonable prices. Plan to enjoy a fish fry, Italian sausage, hamburgers, hot dogs, salt potatoes and fries. Then walk it off and buy some more gear!

This event will be on **Saturday, September 10, 2011** and will open at 8 AM and go to 4 PM. It is conveniently located off Rt.104 at 979 Bay Rd., Webster, N.Y. 14580.

Upon entering, the staff will ask for a \$5 donation that will all go to help fund the Shriners Hospital for Children. So, spread the word and don't miss your last local flea market for buying and selling ham radio supplies in 2011. Hope to see you all there!

*All Hamfest photos courtesy of Bob  
Horner, KB2YEM*

## Silent Keys

Duane B. Carr, W2QGL  
*Date unknown*

John A. "Jack" Wenrich, K2RY  
May 25, 2011

Ron Snyder, KC2JRR  
May 27, 2011

Harvey L. Cohen, K2EJP  
May 28, 2011

## Rag-Chew

Editor's Thoughts & Comments  
By Kevin Carey, WB2QMY  
[Editor@RochesterHam.org](mailto:Editor@RochesterHam.org)

It was great to meet so many of you at the Hamfest! I noticed that even when the rain came, there were plentiful smiles around the grounds—something not often seen in past years when rain showed up. It appears we have found a winning combination with the new Hamfest, and we'll be back to do it all again next year!



This issue of the *Rag* is a first of sorts... In years past, RARA has gone into "standby mode" over the summer months, but we couldn't find a good reason to shut down your monthly newsletter, so here we are with the first full-featured *RARA Rag* for July! This issue might be a bit smaller than in recent months, but I think we have another great lineup of articles. My hearty thanks to our regular columnists and other contributors for delivering once again. We hope you will enjoy this issue for your summer reading!

Finally, I'd like to echo Len's enthusiasm for the upcoming **Fall Fest & Tailgate Party** at 979 Bay Road in Webster. I think you are going to LOVE this location, as well as the food and the camaraderie! Want a preview of the site? Try to visit on a Friday night, when the Damascus Shriners host their weekly Cruise Night. In addition to seeing the scenic grounds, you'll have an opportunity to see a huge assortment of classic cars and motorcycles. The grill will be in full operation, and the crew from Legends 102.7 will be spinning the tunes. There's a good chance you'll see me there too! Mark your calendar now for the Fall Fest on September 10<sup>th</sup>!

73 and best DX!



*RaRa members checking out some 'Hot-Wheels'.*

## Ham Tech: A Report from Dayton

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI

*Editor's note: Our intrepid Ham Tech reporter, Duane Fregoe, takes a break from his usual format this month to bring you a firsthand account of his trek to the Dayton Hamvention. Every ham should make this trip at least once in their career! –K.C.*

My first Dayton Hamvention was in 2006. I had gotten my Technician license four months earlier, and I have been there every year since. My preferred schedule is to leave early Thursday morning and arrive back in Rochester by 10:00 pm on Saturday. This year was no exception. I load up the MP3 player with ham radio and technology podcasts. I even had two audio books on file that were downloaded from the library for free. I prefer this to commercials and a pinch of music on many of the local radio stations.

The Dayton Hamvention is the king of hamfests. Attendance has been going up the past few years and this year's attendance was estimated at 20,000 people. All the big names are at Hamvention such as Kenwood, Icom, Elecraft, Ten-Tec, Yaesu, Heil Sound, and many more fill up the indoor spaces. Wouxon.US was there again this year with an even larger supply of dual band handhelds. They sold out on Saturday morning and it was easy to see why at the super price of \$90.00.

The outdoor flea market is a site to behold. It is the "Billy Fuccillo" of flea markets, HUGE! This year had to be the most exciting in one area of the flea market... Late Saturday morning something starting bubbling up out of the pavement and it was not oil. A sewer line out of the main arena had ruptured in the flea market area and you know what that means: Lots of unidentified debris filling the area! It was pretty bad for some vendors near the break.

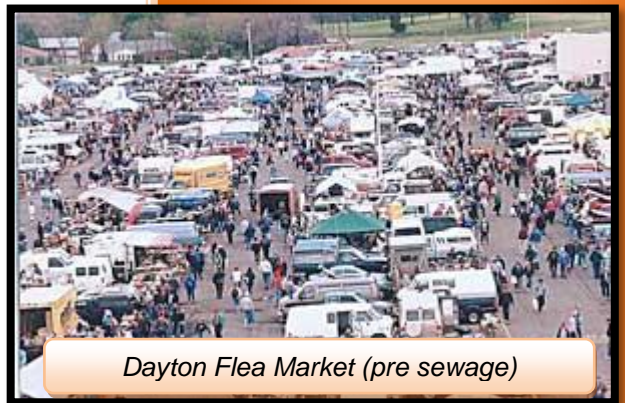
Before I forget, the weather in Dayton, OH this year was PERFECT!! Hope to see you in Dayton next year.

### RaRa Club LOGO Items



Don't feel left out- get your RaRa logo items today!

<http://www.rochesterham.org/logo.htm>



Dayton Flea Market (pre sewage)



Dayton Commercial Vendors



## Public Service 2011

By Duane Fregoe, K2SI

The 2011 Public Service events got off to a big start on June 12<sup>th</sup> with the 20<sup>th</sup> running of the Tour de Cure. 1,800 bicycles took to the five courses with 35 amateur radio operators helping to keep the day safe and fun. The wet roads in the morning lead to many flat tires. I tossed out over a dozen tubes when the day was over. I received many compliments from the riders who were very appreciative of the service and extra effort we provided. I am positive many other hams received similar compliments. Thank you to all that helped.

Another event that is popular with some of the local amateurs is the STPR down in Wellsboro. This event was a family affair for the Werners on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Beth (WB2ETH), Zach (KC2VCM), and John (KC2TNO) put in two full days to support the event. Beth spent time in the hot seat as a first time net control operator. Way to go Beth! John shared a funny moment during the event that will surely get him in trouble if repeated.

We have a brand new event this year that just hit the radar screen. The Rochester Chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation is having their first Cycle for Life ride on August 20<sup>th</sup>. It will start and finish at SUNY Geneseo with a 35 mile and 65 mile course. The long route will do a lap around Honeoye Lake. Ham radio excels on bike rides and this one could use our support.

The AIDS Rochester Red Ribbon Ride is not on the public service calendar this year. AIDS Rochester has also chosen September 18<sup>th</sup> for this year's ride which is in conflict with the Rochester Marathon. The Marathon is our premier event with Monroe County. We hope to have the AIDS Rochester Red Ribbon Ride on next year's calendar.

**Genesee Valley Hunt Horse Trials** – Sun, July 10, 2011 (Geneseo)  
**MS Bike Ride** – Sat & Sun, July 30 & 31, 2011 (Keuka Park)  
**Walnut Hill Driving Competition** – Wed thru Sun, August 10 - 14, 2011  
**Cycle for Life (Cystic Fibrosis)** - Sat, August 20, 2011 (SUNY Geneseo)  
**Rochester Arthritis Foundation Marathon** – Sun, September 18, 2011  
**Barktoberfest: Lollypop Farm** – Sat, September 24, 2011  
**Fairport Lift Bridge Regatta** – Sun, September 25, 2011  
**Jamboree on the Air (BSA)** – Sat & Sun, October 15 & 16, 2011 (Babcock-Hovey)  
**NYS Thruway Pumpkin Patrol** – Sun & Mon, October 30 & 31, 2011

Signing up for an event is very easy. Just go to our website at:  
[http://www.rochesterhamfest.org/public\\_service.htm](http://www.rochesterhamfest.org/public_service.htm) . You can sign up for one or multiple events at the same time.



*RaRa operators on duty at the Tour de Cure*

# VE Session Results

By Ken Hall, KR2H

## March VE Session

In March, we had 6 new Technicians, 3 new Generals, one of whom passed both the Technician and General test at the session and 3 new Extra's.

Goggins	KC2ZXW	Technician
Goodspeed	KC2ZXX	Technician
Martin	KC2ZXY	Technician
Prezioso	KC2ZXZ	Technician
Schlechtriem	KC2ZYA	Technician
Silkey	KC2ZYP	Technician
Dries	KC2NVR	General
Herbst	KC2KNJ	General
Tufts	KC2ZYC	General
Burolla	W2VAB	Extra
Gordon	N2KFY	Extra
Lill	WA2ZKD	Extra

## April VE Session

In April, we had 6 new Technician licensees.

Baker	KB1VPI	Technician
Beasten	KB3VYA	Technician
Burton	KD2ACV	Technician
DeMar	KD2ACW	Technician
Grasser	KD2ACX	Technician
Snell	KD2ACY	Technician
Snell	KD2ACZ	Technician

## Hamfest VE Session

During the Hamfest, we had 51 candidates of whom 33 were successful with 17 new Technicians, 13 new Generals, one of whom passed both the Technician and General, and 3 new Extra class operators.

Balduzzi	KD2AJL	Technician	Cavilia	KC2ZGU	General
Barned	KD2AJM	Technician	Delle Fave	KC2YSO	General
Cleveland	KD2AJN	Technician	Desmond	N2NAO	General
Cleveland	KD2AJO	Technician	Dutcher	KD2AJR	General
Corbit	KD2AJP	Technician	Ekstrom	KB3NRA	General
DeVito	KD2AJQ	Technician	Gorall	KC2VJO	General
Easterly	KD2AJS	Technician	Hickey	KC2ZUQ	General
Hennen	KD2AJT	Technician	Johnson	KB2YGF	General
Hull	KD2AJU	Technician	Kessler	KD2AJV	General
Lawrence	KD2AJW	Technician	Kirchoff	KC2LXX	General
Martin	KD2AJX	Technician	Sheflin	KC2WZY	General
Newhouse	KD2AJY	Technician	Williams	KC2ZLX	General
Pietrantoni	KD2AJZ	Technician	Erdle	KC2MOT	Extra
Pratt	KD2AKA	Technician	McIntyre	W2JMC	Extra
Pyle	KD2AKB	Technician	Schlegel	WA3MVM	Extra
Ryan	KD2AKC	Technician			
Song	KD2AKD	Technician			
Baumgartner	KC2ZWW	General			

I would like to thank all the members of the VE Team who give some of their time to help promote this wonderful hobby – see you in September.

This is the last test of the spring session and we will resume testing on the Third Saturday of September which will be on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

# Scanning at Letchworth Park

By Jim Sutton, N2OPS  
[iim@n2ops.net](mailto:iim@n2ops.net)

Letchworth Park, the "Grand Canyon of the East" is the most popular attraction in the Rochester area. With a 17-mile gorge, three waterfalls and many miles of great hiking there is something for everyone, including the scanner listener.

## Letchworth State Park

155.430	110.9	Police repeater (can easily be heard in the Rochester area)
155.430	203.5	Police talkaround
159.315	110.9	Police repeater input (useful when repeater reception is Spotty—this may allow you to still hear the action)
155.685	82.5	Police car-to-car (same frequency as Niagara Park Police)
44.92	151.4	Maintenance/Rescue Teams (may be moving to 151.160 151.4)

## Norfolk Southern Railroad

161.070	CSQ	Road channel (automated talking detector at Portage)
452.9375	CSQ	Front of Train telemetry in 60 sec. bursts (great early warning)

## Livingston County

155.595	107.2	Sheriff (Park Police are 8E10's)
46.16	CSQ/123.0	Fire and EMS

## Wyoming County

155.010	107.2	Sheriff
46.18	D114	Fire and EMS

## New York State Police

154.665	110.9	Car-to-car (direct)
---------	-------	---------------------

While Livingston and Wyoming County Sheriff and Fire can provide good listening, be sure to not miss the listening right in the park. You will be impressed with their very professional communications. They do an excellent job ID'ing their frequencies.

Enjoy one of the best attractions our area has to offer while using your scanner to get the inside scoop on what's happening. Your family will love you when you've alerted them ahead of time to the train crossing the trestle while those around you will wonder how you did that. Don't forget your scanner manners and use a headphone or earphone as appropriate.

Until next time 73 to thee.



*Letchworth State Park Gorge - Middle Falls, Upper Falls, and Portage Railroad Bridge.*



**RaRa Hotline**  
**(585) 210-8910**  
**24 Hours a Day**



## In Memory of a Silent Key: John A. (Jack) Kuecken, KE2QJ

By BJ Kuecken, KB2OCP

Born September 2, 1927 in Detroit, MI, Jack Kuecken's parents soon realized that he would always be looking to learn and expand. He loved to experiment, and though his first experiments were tests of gravity, he soon began building on his knowledge. As a pre-teen, he built his first crystal radio sets, using breadboards and an oatmeal boxes.

In the Army Jack began working on radar and antennas, and his interest in engineering, radio operations and antennas grew from there. As a radar repairman and equipment specialist, he trained and served in the US Army following World War II but his military career really didn't end with his discharge. As a civilian, working in military electronics and radar engineering, he continued his career with the military, seeing active duty in Vietnam as a civilian specialist.

As an inventor and engineering consultant, Jack holds more than 164 patents, the most notable being for antennas used by NASA with the Apollo moon program and the Space Shuttle. He has been ranked in the top one percent of all inventors based on the number of patents issued.

He was presented with an award for his participation in the Apollo program, one of his highest achievements. As a writer Jack has published numerous journal articles, as well as fourteen technical works including *Antennas and Transmission Lines*; *Fiberoptics*; and *How to Make Your Own Home Electricity, With Wind Water and Sunshine*. Among his other publications he has several articles in the *AARL Antenna Compendium*. Among these articles, published in the Vol. 6 of the Compendium is *A Remote Tunable Center-Loaded Mobile Antenna* which describes his mobile antenna coupler.

In addition to his technical publications Jack has also published four volumes of fiction including *Some Were Astronauts* and *Cold War Hawk*, both of which are semi-autobiographical.



Fig 3—Photo of experimental coil and fairing mounted on author's rear bumper. The fairing is substantial in this design!

Jack has been active in the Rochester Amateur Radio Association for many years, even serving as Editor for the *RaRa Rag* for a short time. Jack enjoyed the contacts and the opportunity to meet with other interested people both at the meetings and at the Rochester Area Hamfest. His work in the area of antennas and radio work have left their mark in many areas, and Jack will be missed by his many friends in amateur radio as well as other areas of interest.

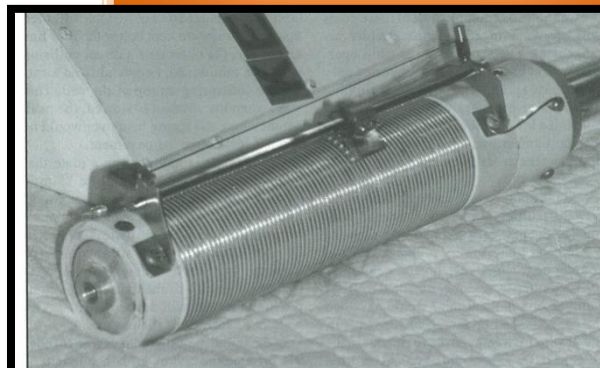


Fig 2—Photo of experimental coil, with fairing in the background. This coil used a sliding contact moved by a windlass mechanism similar to the "slide-rule dial" found on old radios.



The National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
presents the  
**Apollo Achievement Award**  
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In appreciation of dedicated service to the nation as a member of the team which has advanced the nation's capabilities in aeronautics and space and demonstrated them in many outstanding accomplishments culminating in Apollo 11's successful achievement of man's first landing on the moon, July 20, 1969.



Signed at Washington, D.C.

*Thomas O. Paine*  
ADMINISTRATOR, NASA

## Visit the RARA Website!

Did you know that your club's website at [www.rochesterham.org](http://www.rochesterham.org) offers these features and more?...

- ✓ Photos of meetings & events (you might be in there!)
- ✓ Info on upcoming meetings/programs
- ✓ Rochester Hamfest information!
- ✓ Online membership & renewal
- ✓ Public service info & sign-up
- ✓ VE testing info
- ✓ Back issues of the *Rag* in PDF
- ✓ Officer contact info
- ✓ List of past presidents (how many do you remember?)
- ✓ Order RARA logo products (hats, shirts, mugs)
- ✓ Useful Internet links
- ✓ Ham Radio 101—tons of tutorial info, plus net & repeater listings



## News from our friends at other area clubs...

### Foxhunt Results

By Brian Donovan, K2AS

Here are the results from the Spring 2011 XARC Foxhunt:

**First Place** - Jon Dickason N2JAC, Bob Scott, Nicole Scott

**Second Place** - Lee Morelli WB2JOR, Nick Tryon KC2YTG

**Third Place** - Fred Miller WO2P, Judy Stonehill N2KXS

There were two Foxes on this hunt. The first was on 146.565 MHz and running 7 watts to a rubber duckie, and was located on a trail in the Lock 62 Canal Park in Pittsford. The second fox was on 146.475 MHz and was located on the Railroad Loop Trail near Oak Hill Golf Course. Lunch was at Tom Wahls in Bushnell Basin. Thanks to all for participating and to Greg Donovan for helping out. Stay tuned for the next Foxhunt event!

### RDXA KE2WK Memorial Award

Congratulations to KENNETH J. BOASI, N2ZN, this year's honored recipient of Rochester DX Association's KE2WK MEMORIAL AWARD.

This award is to recognize the HF enthusiast who has been active in RDXA club affairs, demonstrated long term club commitment, and is recognized by fellow club members as a high profile active station pursuing DX and participating in HF contests. This annual award is in memory of RDXA Past President Bill Becket, KE2WK (1991-1993).

# Monroe County ARES / RACES News

By Jim DiTucci, N2IXD

**Summer Break:** Monroe County ARES / RACES will not meet in July or August.

Monroe County Amateur Radio Emergency Service, Inc. holds its meetings on the fourth Thursday of each month. All ARES / RACES members and non-member Amateur Radio Operators are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The next ARES Meeting will be held on: **Thursday, September 22, 2011, at 7:00 PM.**

Meetings are held at the **Greater Rochester Chapter of the American Red Cross HQ, 50 Prince Street, Rochester, NY 14607.** (Located behind the Rochester Auditorium Theatre, 885 Main St. E.)

**ARES NET:** Monroe County ARES/RACES meets on the air every Thursday of the month at 9:00 pm, on the 146.61 MHz (-) 110.9 Hz PI repeater. The only exception to that are nights when we hold our regular meeting, generally on the 4th Thursday of the month.

## Important News:

Besides the usual summer public service events scheduled over the next few months, there will be two opportunities during the summer meeting break for you to participate in ARES/RACES on-air exercises.

Monroe County Public Health will activate Monroe County RACES on Friday, July 15, 2011 to execute the third and final Civil Preparedness Initiative (CPI) Communication Drill.

Six months of planning, pre-drill meetings and tabletop exercises will culminate in a seven hour exercise specifically designed to test RACES interoperable communications capabilities using both Amateur Radio and County Public Safety communications systems.

If you have not already signed up for this exercise, consider participating in this fast moving seven hour test of RACES deployment and communications skills. The outcome of these CPI exercises contributes to the availability of grant monies that fund RACES operations.

We need several more people to participate in this exercise. Can't work a full 7-hour shift? Consider a 4-hour morning or afternoon shift. Ask for details. Contact Exercise Coordinator, Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY, for details ([wb2sxy@arrl.net](mailto:wb2sxy@arrl.net)).


The second event is the MVP Health Care Rochester Marathon Scheduled for Sunday, September 18, 2011. Save the date on your calendar. More details to come in the RARA Rag next month.

Stay in touch with Monroe County ARES/RACES --  
[www.monroecountyemcomm.org](http://www.monroecountyemcomm.org)






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# THE RARA RAG

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P.O. Box 93333, Rochester, NY 14692-8333

RaRa Hotline (585) 210-8910

Website: [www.rochesterham.org](http://www.rochesterham.org)

## **OFFICERS:**

President: Frank Schramm, WB2PYD ..... 267-9278  
[wb2pyd@arri.net](mailto:wb2pyd@arri.net)  
Vice-President: Bill Marinucci, WB2GHC ..... 889-9088  
[wb2ghc@arri.net](mailto:wb2ghc@arri.net)  
Secretary: Len Crellin, KC2PCD ..... 267-9805  
[kc2pcd@rochester.rr.com](mailto:kc2pcd@rochester.rr.com)  
Treasurer: Ken Hall, W2KRH ..... 289-3801  
[ken@w2krh.com](mailto:ken@w2krh.com)

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Jim DiTucci, N2IXD ..... 426-7956  
[n2ixd@arri.net](mailto:n2ixd@arri.net)  
Duane Fregoe, K2SI ..... 594-4945  
[k2si@arri.net](mailto:k2si@arri.net)  
Bill Kasperkoski, WB2SXY ..... 381-6553  
[wb2sxy@arri.net](mailto:wb2sxy@arri.net)  
Ross Mazzola, KC2LOC ..... 247-8323  
[kc2loc@arri.net](mailto:kc2loc@arri.net)  
Gary Skuse, KA1NJL ..... 223-1511  
[ka1njl@arri.net](mailto:ka1njl@arri.net)

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RaRa meets on the first Friday of each month  
from September through May. Come join us at:

**Henrietta Fire Company No.1**  
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## Rochester Area Radio Club Contacts

### **Antique Wireless Association (AWA)**

Lynn Bisha, W2BSN ..... [lbisha@rochester.rr.com](mailto:lbisha@rochester.rr.com)

### **Drumlins Amateur Radio Club Ltd. (DARC)**

Rich Hamill, KC2TNJ ..... [tinker@rochester.rr.com](mailto:tinker@rochester.rr.com)

### **Fisherman's Net Amateur Radio Club**

Jim Sutton, N2OPS ..... [jim@otrym.org](mailto:jim@otrym.org)

### **Genesee Valley Amateur Radio Assn**

Bill Boyd, N3DSP ..... [N3DSP@lafireline.net](mailto:N3DSP@lafireline.net)

### **Monroe County ARES**

Jim DiTucci, N2IXD ..... [n2ixd@arri.net](mailto:n2ixd@arri.net)

### **Rochester Amateur Radio Association (RaRa)**

Frank Schramm, WB2PYD ..... [wb2pyd@arri.net](mailto:wb2pyd@arri.net)

### **Rochester DX Association (RDXA)**

Paul Kolacki, K2FX ..... [usafpilot@rochester.rr.com](mailto:usafpilot@rochester.rr.com)

### **Rochester Radio Repeater Association (RRRA)**

Brad Allen, KB2CHY ..... [kb2chy@frontiernet.net](mailto:kb2chy@frontiernet.net)

### **Rochester VHF Group (RVHFG)**

Dave Hallidy, K2DH ..... [k2dh@frontiernet.net](mailto:k2dh@frontiernet.net)

### **Squaw Island Amateur Radio Club (SIARC)**

Steve Benton, WB2VMR ..... [sbenton2@rochester.rr.com](mailto:sbenton2@rochester.rr.com)

### **XEROX Amateur Radio Club (XARC)**

Ned Asam, W2NED ..... [w2ned@frontiernet.net](mailto:w2ned@frontiernet.net)

**August Rag Deadline**  
**July 17, 2011**

